

D-17795-2

-27-

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Processes for the production of polysaccharide ethers, e.g. cellulose ethers, are disclosed wherein salts formed during the process, e.g., sodium nitrate or sodium acetate, are converted to their corresponding acids and bases by means of an electric current, preferably in combination with a bipolar membrane and suitable cation and/or anion membranes. The acids and bases recovered from the processes can be recycled, thereby avoiding the need to provide for disposal of the salts.